



National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians  
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April 17, 2018

Mr. Edward J. Gabriel, MPA, EMT-P, CEM, CBCP  
Chair, Federal Interagency Council on EMS  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, ASPR  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Thomas P. O'Neill Jr Federal Building  
200 C Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Mr. Gabriel,

On behalf of the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT), we kindly request FICEMS to determine funding for the development of a nationally-applicable EMS Preparedness Agenda consensus document that describes the desired future state of EMS preparedness and outlines the training protocols needed for achieving the desired level of preparedness.

In 2016, the National Association of State EMS Officials released the EMS Domestic Preparedness Improvement Strategy. This strategy outlined ten (10) goals for improving EMS preparedness and training. The most important and immediate goal is to establish an EMS Preparedness Agenda. Currently, no nationally-applicable stakeholder consensus document has been developed.

In 2017, NAEMT released The National Survey on EMS Preparedness in Disaster and Mass Casualty Incidents Response. The survey revealed significant gaps in EMS preparedness for response to natural and man-made disasters and mass casualty incidents. It noted that education and training – key components of preparedness – are often sporadic, making it difficult to keep skills and knowledge fresh. While some survey respondents indicated that they received training for some type of incidents, such as responding to active shooters, there were other areas in which few EMS practitioners had received any training including chemical, biological or radiological events, and pandemics.

For over a decade the Federal government and non-governmental organizations have outlined in a variety of reports the importance of EMS as a pillar of disaster preparedness and response, and a need for resourcing. With the growth in occurrences of natural disasters and pandemics, and the increased threat of CBRNE events, it is essential for FICEMS to establish standard EMS preparedness training guidance for all EMS agencies throughout the country.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Please do not hesitate to contact me for questions or additional information.

Respectfully,

Dennis Rowe, EMT-P  
President, NAEMT